

REMARKS

Preliminary Amendment

The claims have been amended to be limited to the elected group and to add embodiments of the invention falling within the elected group. No new matter has been added by this Preliminary Amendment.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has restricted the claims of the invention into three groups as follows: Group I (Claims 1-17), directed to a method of protecting an animal from a disease by treatment with a cysteine variant of G-CSF; Group II (Claims 18-43), directed to a method of protecting an animal from a disease by treatment with a cysteine variant of EPO; and Group III (Claims 43-59), directed to a method of protecting an animal from a disease by treatment with a cysteine variant of alpha-interferon.

Applicants provisionally elect, without traverse, the claims of **Group III (Claims 43-59)**. It is submitted that newly added Claims 60-70 fall within this elected group.

The Examiner has also required a species election from among the substitutions and combinations of substitutions. Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the species of **substitutions in the C-D loop** (corresponding to Claims 44-45, 49-65 and 69-70), and the species within this combination of substitutions of **M111C** (corresponding to Claims 44-45, 49-65 and 69-70).

With regard to the species election, Applicants note that such a requirement is primarily, if not solely, intended to facilitate a search by the Examiner. In the instant case, it is believed that a thorough search for the subject matter of Claim 44, or for the use of cysteine variants of alpha interferon to treat a disease, will be sufficient to search and examine all species. Applicants note that the Examiner is obligated to examine the generic claims and submits that the scope of the claims of the present invention is not limited to the elected species.

Any questions or concerns regarding these elections should be directed to the below-named agent at (303) 863-9700.

Respectfully submitted,

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